

From: Steve Blair
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 11:31pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Sirs/Madams,

Regarding the proposed settlement between the Department of Justice and Microsoft Corporation, I have to say I am grievously disappointed in the "supposed" remedy. Like many other Americans I am beside myself in disbelief after reading the settlement. I've listed my concerns below.

1. The settlement proposes nothing to effectively address the possible recurrence of anti-competitive behavior from Microsoft Corporation. The definition concerning "Windows Operating System Product" among others leaves much to be desired. A simple name change or new "Operating System Product" allows Microsoft to wriggle out from underneath this one.
2. The settlement proposes nothing to address punitive and reparative measures on behalf of companies such as Netscape Communications, Caldera and others which clearly fell victim to Microsofts' anti-competitive nature.
3. The settlement does not punish Microsoft for a single violation of the Sherman act. The proposed settlement continually points out that Microsoft violated anti-competitive laws, yet there is not even a whisper of any consequence.

I sincerely hope that the final draft of the Proposed Final Judgement against Microsoft Corporation addresses these issues (and the many others I did not mention) and does not merely mention the fact that the law was broken. Although this may not be the most opportune moment to make an example out of another "monopoly" (I remember AT&T's divestiture), I believe it is necessary and I believe it is the right thing to do.

"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." -- Edmund Burke